



Village Historian's Report for 2013-14

The "history" highlight of the 2013-2014 year was the rehabilitation of the Fayetteville Feeder and the bridge across Limestone Creek to connect the new village Canal Landing Park with the towpath and Erie Canal State Park.

To coincide with the official dedication of the bridge I created a folder "The Fayetteville Feeder – The Heart of the Village's Prosperity" with photographs and related text. This was distributed at the ceremony and also in the Manlius Town Hall which overlooks the Feeder and through the Village Clerk's office.

In addition I produced a display at the Manlius Town Hall about the Feeder and the new bridge and a second pictorial display at the Fayetteville Free Library about the loss the Limestone Creek dam in 2009 and the new bridge.

Other displays I created for the Fayetteville Library have related to Winter, early auto trips and the Fayetteville High School.

Throughout the year I have developed information for fact sheets about people and events related to Fayetteville's history. This type of research is very fundamental to understanding the development of the village but is also time-consuming. The data available for some of the early years will not always answer the questions raised by environmental firms, lawyers, engineers and families in today's world.

in the past 18 months, I have provided local information for a new book published this year about earliest anti-slavery activists from Fayetteville who led Onondaga County's abolition movements. These people are brought vividly to life in *The Seceders—Religious Conviction & the Abolitionist Movement in the Town of Manlius 1834-1844*. by Alethea A. Connolly.

This is an entirely new look at these anti-slavery trailblazers, so far ahead of their time that they have been forgotten by history. Community pressure, financial difficulties, illness and death all worked to keep these people in obscurity which has been swept away by Ms. Connolly's research in minutes of meetings, personal journals and letters.. .

I continue to provide "Years Ago" paragraphs for the village's newsletter and website, striving for items directly related to current local events.

I am also working with alumni on several projects relating to Fayetteville High School and early Fayetteville schools. I also did a slide program for the Fayetteville

Garden Club about the village's part in development of Green Lakes State Park. I am scheduled to expand this program for the Onondaga Garden Club in the fall.

New interpretive signs for the state's Erie Canal are again being studied (this has been a seven year project so far) and I continue to provide photographs and facts.

I have continued my research relating to Nathan Chapman, the first village clerk who was active in local civic and cultural reform groups from 1830 to 1890. There is still more to be done on this subject as time permits.

Throughout the year I have responded to requests by village officials, local residents and families seeking information about former residents and events of bygone days. This work would not have been possible without the cooperation of all village officials and I am honored to continue as the unpaid village historian.

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telephone
(315) 687-9334

Barbara S. Rivette, Fayetteville Village Historian
8794 Route 5, Chittenango, N. Y. 13037